

Atascadero Unified School District

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John Rogers, Superintendent

December 15, 2008

California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814-5512

Attention: John Kessler

DOCKET	
07-AFC-8	
DATE	DEC 15 2008
RECD.	DEC 29 2008

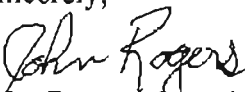
Dear Mr. Kessler:

This letter is in support of the Carrizo Energy Solar Farm (CESF) Project Application for Certification (07-AFC-8). As superintendent of the Atascadero Unified School District, I understand the value of new and varied opportunities for our students and the public to access employment. Preparing students for future employment, the schools are responsible to identify the local employment trends and to create curriculum that leads toward careers in those fields. In October, 2008, a solar and renewable energy task force was developed to evaluate the career technical education pathways designed to address future employment in solar industries. The result of the work of the task force was a \$75,000 grant to study, develop, implement and evaluate a K-12 curriculum focusing on changing attitudes regarding renewable energy as well as to create multiple pathways to careers with a focus on solar renewable energy. PG&E, Ausra, Inc. and OptiSolar are all industry partners with the school district in this endeavor.

Having read the Preliminary Staff Assessment of the Carrizo Energy Solar Farm, I can assure the Commission that issues related to noise, traffic and transportation may be mitigated by maintaining a strong chain of communication with the solar industry partners and the school district. Timing for transporting large equipment as well as the congestion on Highway 58 may be made to allow for the safe and timely transport of students on school buses in the morning and in the evening. Environmental and noise concerns should not effect the Carrisa Plains Elementary School, however if further study indicates a concern, these concerns should be worked out through direct communication with the industry partners.

In closing, the Atascadero Unified School District does not foresee obstacles in the development of the Carrizo Energy Solar Farm and we support the partnerships that will improve educational opportunities for our students.

Sincerely,


John Rogers, Superintendent